

## Allies Now on Defensive Along Greater Part of Line in France and Belgium

### Series of German Night Attacks Easily Repulsed--Russians Capture 3,000 Austrian Prisoners in Galicia

The German attack in France and Belgium, initiated in reply to the offensive movement of the allies, has developed to such a point that allies now are on the defensive along the greater part of the line. The extent of the German movement is shown by today's French statement, which speaks of a series of night attacks against the allies along the front. These onslaughts were not in great force, however, and the assumption is that they all were repulsed with ease.

As to the results of recent fighting in Alsace and the Argonne, along the eastern portion of the front, there is a sharp conflict in the statements from Berlin and Paris. The German communications say further ground has been gained in the Argonne, and specifically denies the claims of the French war office that half of the Alsatia village of Steinbach has been captured and that the French are making a further advance there. The Paris announcement asserts that some of the territory lost to the Germans in the Argonne has been regained and that three new lines of houses have been occupied in Steinbach.

The German military authorities say there have been no changes in the eastern campaign, except that the German attacks on the line west of Warsaw have made further progress.

The Russian war office announced that another defeat has been inflicted upon the Austrian forces in Galicia, whose advance from the Carpathians recently was checked with serious consequences to them. It is asserted that fortified Austrian positions near Gorlice were destroyed and that 3,000 prisoners were captured. The Russian statement says, however, that the victory was won early after a hard battle and that fighting still continues, indicating that the Austrians are still capable of offering determined resistance.

In Poland the German attack apparently has shifted to the southward. The Russian statement mentions fighting of particular intensity at Rawa, which is thirty miles south of Sochaczew, the recent center of German activity. German attacks there, as well as in East Prussia and in the region of Mlaw, in Poland near the East Prussian border, are said to have been repulsed.

Austrian warships have bombarded Belgrade, the Serbian capital, from which the Austrians were driven shortly after they had occupied it. Some damage to property was caused by the bombardment, but so far as known, no lives were lost.

According to a report current in Paris, the British battleship Formidable was sunk off Portsmouth. England's chief naval base. The destruction of the Formidable is believed to have been the work of a German submarine.

## Geermans Advance in Argonne and Flanders

London, Jan. 2, 12:30 p. m.—The latest news available from the western battle front shows that little progress is being made by the allied forces, and rather indicates a sporadic renewal of the German offensive, with resultant slight gains in the Argonne and French Flanders. These operations can hardly be classed as a general German offensive movement in the west such as is still being conducted in Poland, but the strength which the Germans are showing seems to make it plain that they have not weakened appreciably their western army by transfers of troops to the east, nor has the pressure of the allies broken their grip on Belgium and France, from the North Sea to Metz.

Gen. Joffre apparently is still avoiding a general attack. Except for their tactics of feeling out the German line by attacks here and there, the allies are playing a waiting game, pending the time when, with the assistance of reinforcements, they deliver a concentrated blow at some strategic point.

The Germans are still attempting to press forward in Poland, but to the south of the Russians have driven the Austrians further back—more than sixty miles in all. It is again reported that the Russians are pouring across the Carpathian mountains into Hungary, causing the inhabitants to flee.

Driven out of Serbia, the Austrians nevertheless are again laying siege to Belgrade. According to despatches from that city, four monitors have bombarded it.

It is still exceedingly difficult to obtain any clear idea of the Turkish operations, but according to an Athens despatch the sultan and his court are preparing to leave Constantinople, fearing the early fall of that city. An attack on Egypt seems to have been abandoned indefinitely.

Various reports concerning the condition of Emperor William's throat are again in circulation. According to one version, the emperor must soon return to Berlin to undergo an operation.

With the full knowledge that vast numbers of men are now being trained in England, Germany, it is recognized here, must be preparing fully to meet their entry into the war. It is agreed that much depends upon the quality of the new formations on both sides.

The English view is that Britain's new troops will be the cream of the country, while Germany, having sent in her finest forces at the outset, must depend for reinforcements upon those physically less fit.

There are again reports of the movement of German troops from the west to the east. Advice from Amsterdam states that 200,000 Germans passed through Cologne on the way east, and it is suggested that they are being sent to General Von Hindenburg preparatory to another great effort to batter through the Russian lines to Warsaw.

## Germans Suffer Heavy Losses at Steinbach

Paris, Jan. 2, 2:10 p. m.—The French official statement on the progress of the war, given out this afternoon, recites a series of encounters along the battle line of com-

paratively minor importance. German attacks and counter attacks have been repulsed; French gains have been retained; the artillery exchanges have been spirited, and in Steinbach, where street fighting has been going on for several days, the French say they have occupied three new lines of houses. The text of the communication follows:

"During the night of December 31-January 1, the enemy delivered at numerous points along the front a series of attacks which were repulsed with ease.

The region to the north of the Lys was, during the day of January 1, the scene of a very spirited artillery engagement which took place on the dunes of Nieuport and at Zonneleke.

"At St. Georges the enemy did not continue his counter attacks, and all our gains have been retained.

"In the regions of Arras, of Albert and of Roye, there have been artillery duels. The enemy blew up two of our caissons between Beaumetz and Achicourt. In revenge we demolished the enemy's trenches at Parvillers and at LaBoisselle, and we stopped the operations of the mine thrower set up in front of Fricourt.

"Our artillery also obtained happy results in the region of the Aisne, where it silenced the artillery of the enemy and dispersed several concentrations of German troops. We have installed ourselves on the Plateau of Nouvron, in certain excavations caused by the explosion of mines.

The Germans were not able to either advance or drive us out; all their counter attacks were driven back.

"In the region of Rheims there was a fairly violent bombardment by the enemy.

"In the region of Perthes we occupied and retained a forest two kilometers to the northeast of Mesnil-Les-Hurlus; the enemy did not deliver a counter attack.

"In the Argonne, in the Forest of La Grurie the local retirement reported yesterday has not had any effect. We have re-occupied a part of the ground lost, and we are holding our positions strongly.

"On the Heights of the Meuse there has been an artillery engagement, but without great severity.

"In the Woëvre we have retained the positions gained by us December 30 without experiencing a counter attack from the enemy, and in the forest of LaPretre we have made a slight advance.

"In the Vosges we have driven back a German attack on our positions at Lœrenmil, three kilometers northeast of Badonviller, inflicting heavy losses on the Germans. The enemy has sustained also heavy losses at Steinbach, where our infantry yesterday occupied three new lines of houses."

## Fierce French Attacks Repulsed By Germans

Berlin by Wireless to London, 3:15 p. m.—French attacks in the vicinity of Nieuport, Belgium, were repulsed by the Germans yesterday, according to the official statement given out today by the German general headquarters staff.

German successes are claimed in the Argonne Forest, in the Bois Brules, and to the southwest of Saarburg, while violent attacks directed by the French to the north of the Fortress of Verdun are said to have

## BRINDILLA SEIZED OFF COAST OF SCOTLAND

### American Tank Steamer Intercepted by French Warship

## REPORTED TAKEN INTO BREST

### State Department Makes Representations to British Government—Unofficial Assurances Received, Vessel Will Be Promptly Released.

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 2.—Word was received here today that the American tank steamer Brindilla, whose arrest by a British cruiser and detention at Halifax last October, was the cause of diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Great Britain, resulting in the steamer's release, again had been intercepted off the coast of Scotland and taken into Aberdeen.

## Intercepted By French.

New York, Jan. 2.—Confirmation of the Brindilla's seizure was given today at the offices of the Standard Oil company here, but it was said that the ship had been intercepted by a French warship and taken to Brest, France. This information reached the company, it was stated, in a cablegram from Captain Petersen, commander of the Brindilla, by way of London.

The message was transmitted from the Brindilla to London by wireless, the company said and was received two days ago. Since it mentioned seizure of the vessel by the French naval authorities, and Brest, as her enforced destination, the Standard Oil officials were at a loss to explain the Halifax report that the Brindilla had been taken to Aberdeen. They had today received no further information as to the fate of the vessel they said.

## Protests to England.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The state department learned today that the steamship Brindilla after her seizure off the coast of Scotland was taken to Brest and made representations to the British government. Unofficial assurances have been received that the vessel will be promptly released. It developed today that another Standard Oil vessel, the Cushing, also was seized by the British cruisers with a cargo of oil but already has been released.

## TWO LOSE LIVES IN PARISH HOUSE FIRE

### Pastor of Greek Catholic Church at Cleveland and Housekeeper

Cleveland, O., Jan. 2.—Rev. Stephen Makara, aged 42, pastor of St. John's Greek Catholic church, Seville avenue and East 22nd street, and his housekeeper, Mrs. Fedor, were burned to death early today when fire destroyed the parish house directly at the rear of the church. Police believe the fire was of incendiary origin.

Mr. Makara was found dead in his bed when flames finally fought their way through the flames, which had gained much headway before an alarm was turned in. The housekeeper was lying in the hallway near Mr. Makara's room, where she is believed to have been overcome while hastening to arouse the priest.

Mr. Makara came here from Philadelphia two years ago. Mrs. Fedor had been his housekeeper only since Tuesday.

Police today learned that on November 19, Mr. Makara was assaulted by two men and he was released from a hospital only a few days ago. These two men, according to the police, beat the priest with clubs and robbed him of \$147 and his citizenship papers. The attack took place in front of the parish house. That the men who attacked the priest robbed him to conceal the real motive of the attack is the belief of the police.

After an examination of the body Coroner Byrne declared the Rev. Mr. Makara died of suffocation.

The police and the coroner are convinced, as a result of their investigation that the fire was incendiary.

## INVITED TO GOVERNOR'S BALL.

As a compliment to himself and the veterans at the head of whom he stands, Department Commander Frederick V. Streeter has received a special invitation to attend the Governor's inaugural ball with his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Metta E. Streeter, on Wednesday evening. This reception is given by the first company of the Governor's Foot Guards.

## THIRTY-FIVE CARS BURNED.

Buffalo, Jan. 2.—Thirty-five loaded cars were destroyed by fire in a collision between an Erie railroad freight train and a Nickel Plate railroad freight train at a cross-over at Blasdell today. The cars were loaded with bagged flour and the loss was estimated at \$100,000. Henry Midland of Conneaut, Ohio, conductor of the Nickel Plate train was fatally injured.

## SUFFRAGISTS INVADE NEW BRITAIN MONDAY

### Open Campaign in This City Next

### Week—State Organizer and Others to Take Part.

The suffragists are in New Britain. Every other city of any size in Connecticut has had a campaign, and now New Britain has been chosen as promising soil for suffrage propaganda. Armed with various



MISS EMILY PIERSON.

starting exhibits, maps and banners the three state organizers for the Connecticut Woman Suffrage association will, with their helpers, open headquarters next Monday morning at 276 Main street. There will be speaking every afternoon and evening and probably open air rallies. The meetings are all free.

Miss Emily Pierson, the first state organizer, is a Vassar graduate and has also taken a degree at Columbia. She has taught for two years at the Bristol High school and has travelled extensively. She is well qualified to present the question of woman suffrage as she has devoted the last few years to a thorough study of the subject. She is a forceful speaker and has won many converts to the cause. Miss S. Isabella Sanders, who has lately come to Connecticut from Illinois, is a real live voter, and can disprove in person the argument that voting would make women less attractive, for she is unusually pretty and has a most pleasing presence. Miss Alyce Gregory of Norwalk is an experienced speaker and presents her subject logically and interestingly. She is well known in the Italian quarters of the state, as she has addressed many audiences in Italy. The suffragists are planning to spend a week in New Britain. Among those who will speak at the headquarters are Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn, Mrs. M. Toscan Bennett, Miss Mary Bulkley and Mrs. Edward Porritt of Hartford.

## CONSULS EXEQUATURS BARRED BY GERMANY

### In Any Territory Occupied By Kaiser's Forces During War.

Amsterdam, Via London, Jan. 2, 2:05 p. m.—According to a statement of the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, a summary of which was given out today by the official press bureau in Berlin, Germany no longer considers binding the exequaturs of consuls in any territory which has been occupied by Germany during the war.

The text of the statement follows: "The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, explaining the status of consuls in Belgium, concerning whose exequaturs it intimates, there has been considerable misunderstanding, says that Germany has notified not only America, but all neutrals, as well as those countries allied with Germany, that she no longer considers binding, in any hostile territory occupied by Germany, exequaturs issued prior to the war."

"At the same time, it is made plain that Germany is glad to meet wishes regarding the admission of consuls anywhere except where military operations are being carried out. Germany requests however, that only persons of Germanophile of neutral leanings be appointed, but she has made no request for the recall of any particular consuls."

"It cannot be expected," the newspaper adds, "that Germany accept hostile Belgian subjects as consuls for other countries in occupied territory. This point is said to be especially important, as 300 Belgians heretofore have held posts as consuls for allied or neutral states."

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING.

After conferring with Alderman Marwick and Councilman Dolan, Mayor Quigley today decided to call a special meeting of the common council for next Wednesday night to authorize the transfer of \$1,100 from the incidental fund to the water department for use in harvesting a crop of ice at Shuttle Meadow reservoir.

## WEATHER.

Hartford, Jan. 2.—Clearing tonight. Sunday fair and colder.

## PLEAS OF IMMUNITY OVERRULED BY COURT

### Billard, Elton and Skinner Must Plead to Indictments.

## DETAILS OF DECISION WITHHELD

### Arguments on Other Immunity Pleas Presented by Edward D. Robbins, George F. Baker and T. DeWitt Cuyler Remain to Be Heard.

New York, Jan. 2.—The federal district court overruled today the pleas of immunity interposed by John L. Billard, James S. Elton and William W. Skinner to indictments charging them with criminal violation of the Sherman law in connection with their acts as directors of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company.

Messrs. Elton, Skinner and Billard claimed that they were entitled to immunity because of testimony given by them before the interstate commerce commission prior to the return of the indictments. The court's decision means that they will now be called upon to plead to the indictments which include 18 other well known men, all directors or former directors of the road.

Details of the decision were not announced by the clerk of the court, William Leary. Mr. Leary said that Judge Grubb, who denied the pleas, was at present at his home in Atlanta. The decision, Mr. Leary said, had been mailed by Judge Grubb to be entered in the court records here. Meantime, Judge Grubb had informed him that the pleas were denied.

## Remain to Be Heard.

Arguments on other immunity pleas presented by Edward D. Robbins, a director and general counsel of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company, George F. Baker and T. DeWitt Cuyler, remain to be heard. Mr. Robbins claims he is immune because he was examined by the federal grand jury which indicted Charles S. Mellen, then president of the New Haven, and Edson J. Chamberlain and A. H. Smith, president and chairman, respectively, of the Grand Trunk Railway company, and because he was a witness before the interstate commerce commission. Mr. Baker claims immunity because he testified before the Pujo inquiry. Mr. Cuyler asserts that he is immune because he furnished the federal grand jury with the copy of the traffic agreement between the New Haven and Grand Trunk companies.

## GERMANS BLOW UP FACTORIES IN POLAND

### All Available Building Materials Especially Bricks, Used in Construction of New Fortifications.

Petrograd, via London, Jan. 2, 7:15 a. m.—The inactivity of the Germans in neighborhood of Warsaw, for some days past, is explained, according to reports reaching here, by the claim that they have employed this time in fortifying the territory already taken up to the Bzura river and along the left bank of the lower and middle Vistula river.

According to reliable information reaching here, Lodz, Lowicz, Skiernewice and Piotrkow are now as strongly fortified as Kalisz and Czenstochowa. The Germans have attempted to make this territory as difficult to invade as is German soil.

Residents of West Poland who are now reaching Petrograd state that hundreds of factories have been blown up by the Germans and that all available building material, especially bricks and metal, have been used in the construction of the new fortifications. Recent German attacks between Skiernewice and Warsaw have their base at Lowicz and Piotrkow, which are said to be equipped with railroads, telegraphs and all the necessary accessories of war.

## UPRISING IN PARAGUAY.

### Passengers Aboard Steamer Mexico Confirm Imprisonment Report.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jan. 2.—Further despatches received here from Paraguay, where a revolutionary movement has broken out, set forth that the leader of the uprising is Colonel Escobar, who recently resigned the position of minister of war in the Paraguayan cabinet. The colonel has explained he relinquished his post because the president of the republic, Dr. Eduardo Scherer, insisted on the practice of economy in the army because of the warfare in Europe.

Passengers who have arrived at Formosa, Argentina, on board the steamer Mexico from Asuncion, confirm the reported imprisonment of the president. He was arrested by Captains Perea and Mendoza and confined in an artillery barracks. An artillery regiment has taken the field. Several encounters have occurred between the police and the rebels. All the regular ways of communication with Paraguay are interrupted.

## ENGAGEMENT TOLD AT DINNER PARTY

### Betrothal of Miss Laura M. Bigelow to Roland H. Ripple Announced at Home of Misses Schmidt.

At a delightful dinner party given last evening by the Misses Ruth and Lillian Schmidt at their home on Church street, which was attended by an even dozen young ladies most of whom are Sunday school teachers at the Stanley Memorial church, the engagement of Miss Laura M. Bigelow to Roland H. Ripple was announced. All of the young ladies present were personal friends of Miss Bigelow and are closely identified with her in church work.

Pink and yellow formed the color scheme of the interior decorations and at the dinner table place cards, in the form of artistic folders, each contained a verse hinting at some betrothal secret. The one read by Miss Bigelow was the last and said, "I may as well admit, I've gone and answered yes." Word was then given to open the folders and inside appeared a miniature photograph of Miss Bigelow and Mr. Ripple with Dan Cupid perched between them. The announcement came as a pleasant surprise. The center of the table was adorned with a large cake in the center of which glistered Miss Bigelow's solitary. The favors were attractive boxes of candied sweets. Later in the evening whist was enjoyed, Miss Edith Rhodes winning first prize and Miss Rose Lyon getting the consolation.

Both Mr. Ripple and his fiancée are well known among a large circle of friends. The former is identified with his father, Elmer W. Ripple, in the wholesale candy business, and is well known as the musician playing the South church chimes. He is prominent in the workings of Washington L. Morgan lodge, Knights of Pythias. Miss Bigelow is employed as a clerk at North & Judd's and lives with her mother at No. 63 Dwight street.

While no definite date has been set it is expected that the young couple will wed in the fall.

## MEXICAN CONSUL GENERAL APPEALS TO AMERICANS

### Hanna Asks Aid for Relief of 2,000 Starving Families in Republic.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The American Red Cross was today appealed to by Consul General Hanna at Monterey, Mex., for aid in relieving upwards of 2,000 families who are suffering from hunger and cold in that section of the revolution-torn republic.

Consul General Hanna's message was sent to the Red Cross through the state department. In it he says the food situation is worse than in Europe, and in addition to those now needing help several thousand probably will be suffering before the end of the month.

"I now have five hundred families on my list in Monterey which are being furnished corn, beans and rice twice a week," says Mr. Hanna. "There are a thousand more families who want tickets to the relief station. There probably are more than 2,000 families in Monterey who need help now, and the prospects are that several thousand will be very hungry before January is past."

"The Mexican authorities are interested in doing what they can, but after four years of war, during which the fields have been neglected, the crops are very short and the local supply is almost exhausted."

"I need for Monterey and nearby towns two cars of corn each week. We need a carload of beans and rice each week. We wish every town in the cotton states would buy a bale of cotton blankets and send them to Mexico, for these people have very little clothing. It is awfully cold. The food situation is evidently worse here than in Europe, where big harvests were gathered last fall."

## BURNSIDE BOY IS SENATOR'S CHOICE

### New Britain, Berlin and East Berlin Boys Rank Well in Examinations.

United States Senator George F. McLean has made his appointment to West Point, the lucky young man being Francis J. Achatz, of Burnside. Mr. Achatz ranked highest of the twenty-seven who took the examinations, having a mark of 91.51 out of a possible 100 per cent. Dwight T. Francis, of Hartford, was named as the first alternate, and William H. Dunham, of New London, is the second alternate. These young men were second and third in rank respectively, their averages being 87.09 and 85.87 per cent.

Two New Britain boys took the examinations. They were Sidney A. Montague, who ranked thirteenth, with an average of 74.45, and Edwin R. Curran, who was fourteenth with an average of 73.06.

James R. Penfield, of Berlin, ranked fifteenth, with a mark of 71.97, and Arthur R. Benson, an East Berlin youth, was eighteenth, his average being 61.96.

If, for any reason, the appointee does not accept the appointment, either the first or second alternate in turn will get the opportunity.

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